

forward, particularly in this area. I am sure there will be many amendments in other areas as well which is proper, particularly since we didn't have committee involvement. We are really doing committee work now on the floor, and that will take some time and effort, but it is necessary in order for us to come out of here with a bill that can be accepted by the Senate, can go to a conference committee, can come out and be accepted by the President.

We have a real challenge before us. I look forward to it and hope we can stick with this issue until it is finished and not come back to campaign finance or something in the middle. We ought to stay with it and keep working, keep as open as we can to other people's ideas, recognizing that it is going to take a long time. But the way it has been brought to us, it has to take a long time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CARNAHAN). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, my understanding of the status of business is that we are still considering the amendment Senator DASCHLE offered earlier, of which I am a cosponsor, along with Senators REID and MURKOWSKI and others. That amendment is still pending and is being considered for possible second-degree amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I have also been informed by the floor manager for the majority it is his intention that the Senate will go into recess at 1:30 to allow Senators to attend a briefing Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld is going to conduct for Senators from 1:30 to 2:30. Then we would be back at the same place we are now. That is for the information of Senators.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

# RECESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, Secretary Rumsfeld will be here in less than 15 minutes. We believe all Senators should have the opportunity to attend that briefing. I checked with both leaders. They agree. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess until 2:30 today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:16 p.m., recessed until 2:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

## NATIONAL LABORATORIES PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator LIEBERMAN is here to give an opening statement on the bill. Following his statement, we understand that Senator NICKLES will be here to give a statement. We are working our way through the statements. This is such an important bill. There are a number of Senators who have strong feelings about it, and they wish to lay out their view of what the energy policy in this country should be.

While it may appear that we are not making a lot of headway, I personally think we are making great progress. There is an amendment now pending. Senator MURKOWSKI is contemplating a second-degree amendment to the underlying Daschle amendment. If, in fact, he does offer it, and it is about what I have learned, I think we will accept that and have a vote on the amendment—not because we are concerned about where the votes are, as the measure will receive virtually every vote but we want the first amendment to come out recognizing the importance of Alaska and the southern pipeline and know that when it goes to conference, we hope there is close to unanimous support of the Senate on this measure.

Senator MURKOWSKI has indicated he is ready with an amendment. We will be ready to work on that. We hope to complete all of the statements today and have a vote on the underlying Daschle amendment. If Senator MURKOWSKI wants a vote on the second degree, we would be happy to do that also and move to whatever Senator MURKOWSKI wants to offer.

I ask unanimous consent that following the statement of the Senator from Connecticut, Senator NICKLES be recognized to offer an opening statement regarding this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, the Senate has begun a very important debate in the last few days on our national energy policy. This is a debate that will literally affect the lives and the quality of the lives of every single American, as well as affect our national security, our independence in carrying out our foreign and defense policies, and the quality of the environment and the natural resources from which we derive such pleasure as Americans. So this is a very important and timely debate.

It has been 10 years since we last passed major energy legislation. We are starting with a bill hundreds of pages long, and hundreds—or at least 100—amendments may find their way onto it. We are going to be debating some very big opportunities and some very big problems, as well as many other smaller issues associated with the bill.

I saw Senator BINGAMAN on the floor. I congratulate him and Senator DASCHLE for their superb leadership, along with that of the occupant of the chair, in developing the energy legislation that we are debating.

The bill before us out of the Energy Committee coordinates the work of many of the committees of the Senate, including the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee which I am privileged to chair, which has contributed a section of this bill. Senator BINGAMAN and Senator DASCHLE have brought before us a very well-balanced national energy policy, which does have some incentives for the development of remaining energy resources in the United States, but makes a turn and acknowledges and acts on the acknowledgment that our energy future is in new technologies being applied to create new sources of energy-efficient, environmentally protected sources of energy. Of course, that will include renewables as well.

Mr. President, this great country became an industrial power for many reasons, including, of course, the skills and ingenuity of our people. But the availability of inexpensive and abundant sources of energy also contributed to the remarkable growth and success of the American economy during the industrial age.

Prior to the mechanization of our society, we relied on wood, water, and horses for much of our energy need. "King Coal" powered the early part of our industrial development and still plays a critical role. Hopefully, it will continue, with the application of new technologies, to play a critical role in generating electricity for our homes, schools, offices, and our factories.

From the time oil was discovered in Pennsylvania in 1859, the petroleum industry has grown enormously—at first, displacing whale oil for lighting and, eventually, powering the world's transportation systems. Enormous deposits of oil spurred development of oil fields in many parts of our country, including Texas, Oklahoma, and California. The 1930s witnessed the enormous expansion of hydropower in various parts of our country, including, of course, the Tennessee Valley and the northwest section of America. In the middle part of the 20th century, we began to harness the atom and develop nuclear power, which was going to be, in the view of many at that time, "too cheap to meter." In other words, it would be so inexpensive you would not even be able to keep track of it to base costing on.

Nuclear power continues to be a significant part of our energy mix. In a State like mine, it is most significant. We have two plants up and operating that have been decommissioned. I hope we can find a way forward to build a next generation of safe nuclear powerplants.

The oil price shocks of the 1970s brought home to us our dependence on foreign markets for oil, on which so